sacred person of His Majesty, the Emperor. There is no law in the books that could be used against the Bolsheviks which does not apply also against Mr. Kerensky or you, Mr. Commissar!"

On my insistence, the man was fired and ordered to leave Riga, but this did not solve the problem. The reactionaries in the judicial service of the army regarded our struggle against the Communists as a clash within the ranks of criminals, enemies of the Tsar. General Parsky, with whom I discussed the situation, said quietly, "Since we have no time to reorganize the judicial branch, we must go ahead without it. It is more important to weed out the traitors than to have them convicted. We can initiate prosecution, despite the sabotage of the courts."

ENFORCEMENT OF A WARRANT

Serious troubles developed in a regiment. Soldiers had disobeyed a routine service order of the colonel. The regimental committee told them to comply with the order. Then a sergeant named Wirt called a meeting of the regiment and, on his suggestion, the soldiers elected a new committee. The latter arrested the colonel and other officers and appointed Wirt regimental commander.

At the request of the Iskosol, I went to the regiment. Wirt reported to me as the commanding officer. To my questions of when and by whom he had been promoted, he replied he had been elected by his men. "In our army," I said, "enlisted men do not elect officers. To me you are still a sergeant."

We were surrounded by an excited crowd of soldiers. I asked Wirt to call the regiment to an orderly meeting. He refused. Pointing to the crowd around us, he shouted, "These people are the meeting."

I scrutinized the man. Middle-sized, lean, not very young, perhaps in his thirties, he had an insignificant face, a thin mustache, arrogant eyes, and an hysterical high-pitched voice. A half-educated man, probably made sergeant by mistake, suspicious of his superiors, intoxicated by his new power. When I asked him where the regiment's officers were, he answered, "Under arrest, on my order."

Then I said to him, "Sergeant Wirt, you now have confessed actions amounting to treason. If you think you can get away with this, you will learn better. I hold you personally responsible for all that has happened or may happen in this regiment."

The crowd shouted, "Hurrah for Wirt, our Red commander!"

The next day the division commander sent Wirt a warrant summoning him to divisional headquarters. Wirt replied by sending a